(Rs. in crores)

	Name of the tax	Budget Estimates for the year 1995-96	Amount outstanding (as on 31.12.95)
1.	Income tax (including Corporation tax)	29,000.00	23095.00 (Prov.)
2.	Central Excise	42,579.20	3028.38 (Prov.)
3.	Customs duty	29,500.00	150.97 (Prov.)

(c) and (d) Field formations have been directed to take necessary administrative and legal measures envisaged under the statutes to recover the outstanding dues. Concerned courts are also requested for early hearings and vacation of stay orders.

Increasing External Debt

*5. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently admitted that it had a large and increasing external debt which is causing concern for the economy as reported in Statesman dated 23.12.95;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any corrective measures to get out from this external debt; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has expressed concern about the increasing size of external debt in the White Paper Titled "India's External Debt-A Status Report". India's external debt rose to $99.0 billion on March 31, 1995. However, by September 30, 1995 external debt had declined by $5.2 billion to $93.8 billion.

(c) and (d) Government has been following a debt management strategy aimed at reducing the debt service ratio to comfortable levels. This includes measures to promote the growth of exports and other current receipts, reduce the growth of total debt, reduce the growth of expensive and short-term components of debt, and to encourage, non-debt creating inflows such as foreign investment.

Credit facilities to New Borrowers by SBI

*6. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3397 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th April, 1995, and state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the inordinate delay of more than one year in sanctioning loans by Delhi Local Head Office of State Bank of India after completion of all formalities by the new prospective borrowers;

(b) the number of cases initiated in 1994, with date of receipt of application, date of sanctioning and date of release of funds in each case;

(c) the number of cases out of those initiated in 1994 where sanction has been accorded but funds have not been released and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that there has been no inordinate delay in sanctioning loans by Delhi Local Head Office of SBI after the completion of all formalities by new prospective borrowers and other procedural requirements.

(b) and (c) According to the information made available by SBI Local Head Office at New Delhi, total number of applications received during 1994 by major Branches/Departments of the bank were 40, out of which 39 cases were sanctioned loans. Non-sanctioning of loan so far to one applicant is on account of the procedural requirement of technical vetting by the concerned refinancing agency. Out of the 39 sanctioned cases, loans could not be disbursed to 5 applicants for different reasons such as the borrowers having already availed finance from other banks/financial institutions, terms and conditions stipulated by the sanctioning authority not acceptable to the applicant, time taken for sanctioning by the appropriate authority other than the bank, delay in completion of formalities for disbursal by applicants etc. As per the information furnished by the bank, the time-lag between sanction and the receipt of the application varied between 5 days and 11 months in these cases and that between sanction and disbursement varied between nil and 217 days. Incomplete applications, delay in completion of formalities by the borrower and time taken for technical vetting/approval by the concerned authorities resulted in delay in sanctioning and disbursal of limits.

(d) State Bank of India has also reported that since there is no case of disbursal pending due to delay of the bank, no action is required to be taken in this regard. Notwithstanding this, procedural modifications have been initiated to further reduce the time-lag in the sanction of credit.

Rate of Inflation

*7. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI: SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of inflation and wholesale price index has been coming down but the prices of items of daily need are going up; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the steps taken by Government to check the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) Annual inflation rate based on movement of WPI has declained to a low of 4.7 per cent (provisional) as on 3rd February, 1996. The deceleration in the growth of prices is also seen in many of the items of daily use. The increase during 1995-96 (upto February 3) in the wholesale prices of 30 essential commodities (which includes foodgrains, fruits, vegetables, edible oils, sugar, gur, khandsari etc.) was modest 4.8 per cent as against over 10 per cent rise in the corresponding period of previous year.

(b) The important steps taken on both demand side and supply side to control inflation are:

1. Continuation of open market sale by FCI of rice and wheat through 1995-96.
2. Continuing OGL import policy for sugar, edible oils and pulses at nil or reduced duty.
3. Import of sugar and edible oils on Government account for augmenting supply through PDS.
4. Adjustment in trade, tax and tariff policies in the Budget for current